

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, UR, US

SUBJECT: SAKHAROV AND TRIAL OF DZHEMILEV

1. SUMMARY: U.S. NEWSMAN (FRIENDLY OF NEWSWEEK) WHO MET WITH ACADEMICIAN AND MRS. SAKHAROV APRIL 16 BRIEFED US LATER THAT DAY ON SAKHAROV'S ACCOUNT OF DZHEMILIEV TRIAL IN OMSK. SAKHAROV'S WERE INVOLVED IN TWO ALTERCATIONS WITH AUTHORITIES AT OMSK COURT-HOUSE AND WERE TWICE TAKEN TO MILITIA HEADQUARTERS. JUDGING FROM THEIR ACCOUNT, DZHEMILEV TRIAL PROVIDED APPALLING EXAMPLE OF SOVIET JUSTICE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACADEMICIAN AND MRS. SAKHAROV MET WITH WESTERN NEWSMEN IN MOSCOW APRIL 16 TO DESCRIBE THEIR EXPERIENCES AT DZHEMILEV TRIAL IN OMSK APRIL 14 AND 15. SAKHAROV'S WERE INVOLVED IN UGLY SCENE AT OMSK COURTHOUSE APRIL 14, WHEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO ADMIT SAKHAROV'S AND OTHER FRIENDS OF DZHEMILOV INTO COURTROOM ON GROUNDS THERE WERE NO SEATS. THREE LINES OF PLAINCLOTHESMEN BLOCKED ENTRANCE TO COURTROOM. AMIDST SHOUTING AND PUSHING, SAKHAROV HIT ONE PLAINCLOTHESMAN AND ONE UNIFORMED MILITIAMAN, AND HIS WIFE STRUCK A PLAINCLOTHESMAN.

3. THE SAKHAROV'S WERE THEN TAKEN TO MILITIA HEADQUARTERS, WHERE
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HE DICTATED AND SIGNED AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED. HE

REPORTEDLY APOLOGIZED FOR HIS CONDUCT BUT CRITICIZED THE AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR CRUDE, "ILLEGAL" BEHAVIOR. MRS. SAKHAROV REFUSED TO SIGN STATEMENT. THEY WERE TREATED POLITELY AND ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHOUT HARASSMENT OR WARNING FROM MILITIA. NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT CHARGES BEING BROUGHT AGAINST THEM.

4. ON APRIL 15 SAKHAROV PRESENTED AUTHORITIES AT COURTHOUSE WITH WRITTEN REQUEST ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF, MRS. SAKHAROV, AND TEN FRIENDS OF THE ACCUSED (ALL TARTARS) TO BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND PROCEEDINGS. REQUEST WAS OF COURSE REFUSED.

5. INSIDE COURTROOM, WHEN TIME CAME FOR DZHEMILEV TO MAKE FINAL STATEMENT HE WAS SO WEAK FROM HIS 10-MONTH FAST HE HAD TO BE HELD UP. JUDGE REPORTEDLY INTERRUPTED DZHEMILEV REPEATEDLY, EVOKING PROTESTS FROM DZHEMILEV'S RELATIVES, WHO WERE IN TURN ORDERED OUT OF ROOM. DZHEMILEV'S MOTHER FAINTED. ANOTHER UGLY SCENE ENSUED OUTSIDE COURTROOM, AS SAKHAROV AND OTHERS LEARNED FROM RELATIVES WHAT WAS HAPPENING. DZHEMILEV SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING SAKHAROV'S, WERE PUSHED OUT OF COURTHOUSE, AND SAKHAROV'S WERE AGAIN TAKEN TO MILITIA STATION. AS BEFORE, THEY WERE TREATED POLITELY AND ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHOUT FURTHER HARASSMENT.

6. SAKHAROV'S REPORTED ONLY THREE WITNESSES TESTIFIED AGAINST DZHEMILEV. THE MAIN PROSECUTION WITNESS, DZHEMILEV'S CELL-MATE DVORYANSKIY, EARLIER APPARENTLY SIGNED STATEMENT THAT HE HAD SEEN DZHEMILEV WRITING AND CONCEALING STATEMENT ABOUT PLIGHT OF TARTARS. AT TRIAL, HOWEVER, DVORYANSKIY REPUDIATED HIS PRE-TRIAL TESTIMONY, SAYING IT HAD BEEN FORCED OUT OF HIM. JUDGE, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO ACCEPT DVORYANSKIY'S STATEMENT ON GROUNDS HE HAD BEEN BLACKMAILED BY TARTARS (DVORYANSKIY'S FATHER IS TARTAR). OTHER TWO WITNESSES MERELY SAID THEY HAD SEEN AUTHORITIES SEARCH DZHEMILEV'S CELL AND DISCOVER HIS WRITINGS. DZHEMILEV'S DEFENSE WAS THAT HE WROTE STATEMENT, WHICH IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF SOVIET LAW, AND MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DISTRIBUTE IT. IN HIS FINAL STATEMENT, HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WHILE AUTHORITIES MIGHT SILENCE HIM, OTHER CRIMEAN TARTARS WOULD TAKE HIS PLACE.

7. SAKHAROV'S SAID LOCAL DOCTOR TOLD THEM DZHEMILEV'S STOMACH, LIVER AND HEART HAD BEEN BADLY DAMAGED BY HIS FAST AND HE WAS IN VERY POOR HEALTH.
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8. AS REPORTED BY WESTERN NEWS MEDIA, SAKHAROV'S SAID THEY WOULD WELCOME FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST THEM AS MEANS OF PUBLICIZING WHAT TRANSPIRED IN OMSK.
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